



Worship for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024
9:30 am



Joseph's Dream by Lauren Wright Pittman

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Douglas Wagner IRBY

Words of Welcome

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Opening Words**

One: In this weary world,

All: we sing of joy.

One: In this fragile world,

All: we lift each other up.

One: In this beautiful world,

All: we look for God.

One: In this tender world,

All: we hold onto hope.

One: This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for,
and hold onto our with-us God.

All: With hope in our hearts, amen!

***Hymn 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Lighting the Candles on the Advent Wreath

Joanna, Todd, Abby & Andrew Petersen

Call to Confession

Amy Hall

One: Friends, hope can feel slippery.

One moment we may believe that change will come, that good will win,
that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow.

The next moment we can receive word of more gun violence, of more mudslinging,
or yet another missile headed toward a group of humans.

Hope can feel slippery.

Fortunately for us, God's grace is not.

No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us.

So trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, no matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change.

All: We hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven.

And the same will be true tomorrow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Sung Response 583

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taizé)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Amy

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

*Sung Response 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

Growing with God

Kristin Duy

*Following Growing with God, all children are invited to return to Grace Space,
or sit in the pews with their families.*

Prayer for Inspiration

Amy

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Beth

Sermon

Hope is Worth the Risk

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Affirmation of Faith**

All: We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us.

We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.

Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability.

We hold onto hope, and we declare:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Offering

Amy

Offertory

People Look East

arr. Jason Krug

Clarion Bell Choir

***Doxology** words 607, tune 606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

***Prayer of Dedication**

Amy



QRCode for Giving

Church Tidings

Minute for the APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee)

Beth

Alison Kocoras

Joys & Concerns

God's People Pray / The Lord's Prayer (using "sins")

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn 110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

The First Noel

arr. John Carter

** Please rise in spirit or body*

All speak emboldened type

LITURGIST: Amy Hall

GUEST ORGANIST / PIANIST: Robert Sacks

USHERS: Jessica Skupien, Bill Vickery

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Linda Cirillo

AV: Pat Garner, Erich Kretchmer

PRAYERS BY: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Christmas Eve Worship, Tuesday December 24

3:00, 7:00, 9:00

Lessons & Carols

Communion

Candlelight



Next Sunday in Worship, December 29

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am

Luke 2:10 & Isaiah 9:2-3

Matthew 2:10 & Psalm 148

Psalm 126:1-3 & Isaiah 55:12-13

Lessons & Laughter



VISITING CPC? WELCOME!

We believe feeling welcome is foundational for members and visitors to be open to the journey of lifelong faith formation and growth. If you've felt a sense of welcome at CPC and are curious in learning more about us, reach out to Ingrid Ellithorpe, Community Connector, to chat by email ingridellithorpe@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 630.452.2625.

LYRICS TO HYMNS FOUND IN HYMNALS

With a reduced staff and in an effort to use our human resources and valued volunteers judiciously, we are returning to using the hymnals for the singing of the hymns. Using hymnals, rather than having the lyrics for all hymns on the screens, will save us 2 - 3 hours of time each week. Thank you for your support. **LARGE PRINT hymnals are available from the ushers.**



Congregational Meeting



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sun Dec 22

10:30

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday December 22 for the sole purpose of voting on the nomination of Tracy Sims to serve as an Elder in the class of 2027.

This week at CPC:

Sunday, December 22

4th Advent

Clarion Bell Choir

9:30 am — Worship

NO Faith Formation - children remain in worship

10:30 am — Congregational Meeting; Sanctuary

10:45 am — Adult Education; chapel / zoom

NO Cubes - HS & MS

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

Noon — Office closes

3:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Christ is born!

Church office closed

Thursday, December 26

Church office closed

Friday, December 27

Church office closed

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am — Worship

NO Faith Formation - children remain in worship

NO Adult Education

NO Cubes - HS & MS



GRACE SPACE - A SPACE FOR ALL CHILDREN

All children 2yrs - 10yrs are invited to participate in the worship service in a space designed just for them.

There are coloring & activity pages, books, puzzles, fidget items,

streamers and more for the children to use while worshipping right up front!



NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed by our volunteers on **Jan 5**. The Nursery is located across from the church office on the main floor and is always open

for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers.

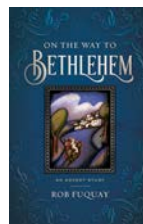
Livestream of the service is on each week!

LENDING LIBRARY IS OPEN

Are you looking for good books for your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or yourself?

Visit the Lending Library in the Narthex and check out a book!

There will be children's books, parenting books and general interest books. Simply complete the form for each book you take and enjoy for up to 2 weeks! Check back often and watch our little library grow!



ADULT ED: Advent Book Study

DEC 22, 10:45 - 11:45

CHAPEL / ZOOM

[Zoom link](#)

This Sunday, Adult Education continues looking at Advent, discussing *On the Way to Bethlehem*, by Rob Fuquay.

The book helps us look at towns and cities that were key to the story of the birth of Jesus. In the fourth chapter, we move to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Fuquay asks us to consider Bethlehem, where humility is a key. Bethlehem is the town to which Naomi returned in humility, bringing Ruth along. Jesus' birth was humble, relative to his importance. The shepherds – the first human worshippers of Jesus – were humble. God's grace and mercy are made clear in a place of humility.

This week, we welcome Larry Schulz as our leader. We will begin the class with a brief video by the author. Please join us!

We encourage you to read the fourth chapter of the book, to enhance your understanding and how this study could apply to your own journey. Books are available in the church office.

MEAL A MONTH COLLECTION

Food pantries are in desperate need. Fill a bag with non-perishable grocery items to be donated to Hinsdale Community Services.

The suggested menu is:

- Cereal and Pancake Mix
 - Mac & Cheese
 - Peanut Butter & Jelly
 - Beans
- Rice
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Salad Dressing
Paper Products



Any non-perishable items will be most welcome! Pick up a bag in the narthex or use your own and return to CPC. Thank you for your generous donations.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be

closed Tuesday, December 24 at noon - Sunday Dec 29
open Monday Dec 30 & Tuesday Dec 31 9:00 – 5:00
closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025
open Thursday January 2, 2025 9:00 am - 5:00



YEAR-END GIVING

As we approach the end of the year, please consider additional financial gifts to the church. Whether you are completing your pledge for 2024 or providing a year-end gift, all gifts are important and deeply appreciated.

To ensure your donations are credited to your 2024 giving please:

- Mail donations with a postmark no later than December 31
- Give on-line by December 27 at <https://onrealm.org/cpc/-/form/give/now>
- Bring your donation to church office by **noon, Monday Dec 30**
- NOTE: Office closed Wed Dec 25 - Fri Dec 27

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday Feb 2
10:30 am
Sanctuary



JOSIE FALBO JAZZ QUINTET

Sunday, January 12
3:00 pm

We welcome the Josie Falbo Jazz Quintet. Josie is one of Chicago's busiest and most frequently heard studio singers for over 35 years. Vocally she can deliver the Gospel power of Mahalia Jackson, rock as hard as Pat Benatar, Be-Bop with the best of them, or perform today's contemporary hits with a style and sound that will amaze and impress any audience.

The program, "Swinging Ladies of Jazz," will incorporate songs made famous by the most revered female jazz singers and others.

Josie will be joined by Jeremy Kahn (piano), Eric Hochberg (bass), Bob Rummage (drums), and Eric Schneider (saxophone).

This concert was originally scheduled for October 6 but had to be rescheduled to January 12.





FAMILY CONCERT: WENDY AND DB

Sunday, January 26

3:00 pm

Sanctuary

This concert will feature singer/songwriting team Wendy and DB - a multicultural, award-winning children's music duo. They write their songs with inclusion, diversity, love, kindness and family values, and their themes examine the world with curiosity. This interactive musical event is suitable for the whole family, young and young at heart.

The CPC Concert Series is pleased to partner with CPC's Kids' Academy to offer this fun, family concert.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN ART

Art Exhibit at CPC

Jan 12 - Feb 2

Embracing Our Differences is a nonprofit organization based in Southwest Florida along Florida's Cultural Coast, that uses the power of art and education to celebrate and promote our individuality and common humanity. They accomplish this through an annual, large-scale, juried exhibition and a comprehensive series of educational initiatives, programs, and resources designed for educators and students. Smaller canvas sized art pieces are coming to CPC!



Join us to expand our horizons of what makes us human and what brings us together with 25 pieces of art created by children from around the world. Click [here](#) to learn about Diversity and Inclusion in Art and preview the exhibit.



2025 Stewardship Campaign

"Our Future Is Now"

In this season of celebration, we give thanks for the generosity of our church family!





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